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(Amended) A method of operation of a code-division-multiple-access (CDMA) system employing spread-spectrum modulation, with the CDMA system having a base station (BS) with a BS-spread-spectrum transmitter and a BS-spread-spectrum receiver, and a plurality of remote stations, with each remote station (RS) having an RS-spread spectrum transmitter and an RS-spread-spectrum receiver, the method comprising the steps of:

transmitting a broadcast common-synchronization channel, from the BS-spread-spectrum transmitter located at the base station to the plurality of remote stations;

receiving at a first RS-spread-spectrum receiver the broadcast common-synchronization channel, and determining a plurality of parameters required for transmission to the base station;

transmitting from a first RS-spread-spectrum transmitter a first preamble at a first discrete power level;

if no acknowledgment corresponding to the previously transmitted preamble is received at the first RS-spread-spectrum receiver by a time following the transmission of the first preamble, transmitting from the first RS-spread-spectrum transmitter a second preamble at a second discrete power level that is higher than the first discrete power level;

receiving the second preamble, at a detected-power level, at the BS-spread-spectrum receiver;

transmitting an acknowledgment of the received preamble from the BS-spread-spectrum transmitter;

receiving the acknowledgment at the first RS-spread-spectrum receiver; and

transmitting a spread-spectrum signal having data from the first RS-spread spectrum transmitter to the BS-spread-spectrum receiver, responsive to the receipt of the acknowledgment.

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44. (Amended) A method of communication through a code-division-multiple-access (CDMA) system employing spread-spectrum modulation, with the CDMA system having a base station (BS) with a BS-spread-spectrum transmitter and a BS-spread-spectrum receiver, and a plurality of remote stations, with each remote station (RS) having an RS-spread spectrum transmitter and an RS-spread-spectrum receiver, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a broadcast common-synchronization channel from the BS-spread-spectrum transmitter located at the RS-spread-spectrum receiver of one of the remote stations, and determining a plurality of parameters required for transmission to the base station;

transmitting a preamble at a discrete power level from the RS-spread-spectrum transmitter of the one remote station;

listening for an acknowledgment corresponding to the transmitted preamble at the RS-spread-spectrum receiver of the one remote station;

if an acknowledgment is not received, upon expiration of a predetermined interval, following the transmission of the preamble, increasing power level to a new discrete power level, and repeating the transmitting step and continuing the listening step;

upon receiving an acknowledgment at the RS-spread-spectrum receiver of the one remote station, ceasing preamble transmission and transmitting a spread-spectrum signal having data from the RS-spread-spectrum transmitter of the one remote station, for the BS-spread-spectrum receiver.

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46. (Amended) The method of claim 44, wherein if the steps of transmitting the preamble and listening for the acknowledgement repeat a plurality of times, the increasing of the power level to a new discrete power level will repeat until power level reaches a maximum value.